GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1305
ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008
MARINE FISHERIES
Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by the Government to find the impact of climate change on marine fisheries; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting studies on the impact of climate change on marine fisheries through the ICAR Network Project on `Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change`.

(b) The following observations have been made under this study:-

Any conspicuous reduction in fish catch has not been noticed.

Extension of northern boundary of major marine fishes such as oil sardine and Indian Mackerel has been detected with the rise in sea water temperature indicating that these fishes have extended their territory from the coastal waters of Kerala and Karnataka to Maharashtra and Gujarat.

The spawning season of threadfin bream is observed to be shifting more towards cooler months with the rise in sea water temperature.

Abundance of plankton is also observed to be shifting more towards cooler months with the rise in sea water temperature.

Frequent bleaching of corals with the rise in sea water temperature will affect the coral reefs that will indirectly affect the reef-dependent fisheries.